AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An amino acid sequence ~~according to claim 2,~~ having more than 95% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.

5. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence ~~corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2 or a portion thereof~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~the sequences comprised between~~:

- the sequence between the glutamic acid in position ~~13~~ 14 and the glutamic acid in position ~~27~~28 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the alanine in position ~~26~~ 27 and the leucine in position ~~36~~37 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the alanine in position ~~42~~ 43 and the glutamic acid in position ~~57~~58 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the glutamic acid in position ~~57~~ 58 and the valine in position ~~69~~70 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the valine in position ~~80~~ 81 and the leucine in position ~~97~~98 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the arginine in position ~~95~~ 96 and the leucine in position ~~112~~113 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the serine in position ~~118~~ 119 and the serine in position ~~129~~130 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the valine in position ~~137~~ 138 and the threonine in position ~~150~~151 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the glutamic acid in position ~~13~~ 14 and the cysteine in position ~~47~~48 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the glutamic acid in position ~~13~~ 14 and the glycine in position ~~38~~39 of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- the sequence between the leucine in position ~~36~~ 37 and the cysteine in position ~~47~~48 of

SEQ ID NO: 2, and

- the sequence between the threonine in position ~~150~~ 151 and the leucine in position 162 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

6. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation in an orally administrable dosage form, comprising:

~~(a)~~ the amino acid sequence according to claim ~~1~~4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof~~, and~~

~~(b) possibly a pharmaceutically acceptable reductant and/or electron donor~~.

7. (Currently amended) A method of treating neurotoxic injury in a patient suffering from said injury ~~by~~ which comprises administering to said patient a composition comprising the amino acid sequence according to claim ~~1~~4, its pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said compound is present in said composition in an amount effective to treat said neurotoxic injury.

8. (Currently amended) A method of decreasing the effect of excitotoxic injury in a patient, having said injury, comprising administrating to said patient a composition comprising the amino acid sequence according to claim ~~1~~4, its pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said compound is present in said composition in an amount effective to treat said excitotoxic injury in said patient.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein said excitotoxic injury is caused by oxidative stress.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein said excitotoxic injury is osteoarthritis.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein said excitotoxic injury affects

neuronal cells.

12. (Currently amended) The amino acid sequence according to claim ~~14~~ 4, produced in yeast.

13. (New) The amino acid sequence according to claim 4, characterized by the sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 4 or 6.

14. (New) A pharmaceutical formulation for treating human cerebral palsy, neurodegenerative conditions associated with oxidative stress related to NMDA receptor-mediated excitotoxicity and osteoarthritis, comprising the amino acid sequence according to claim 4 , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

15. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 14 for treating neuronal cell death, further comprising DTT.